

SMOKE SIGNALS

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DECEMBER

MEANINGFUL ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE  
PRIVILEGES ARE TOP PRIORITY, ARRL SAYS

The ARRL again has urged the FCC to provide meaningful operating privileges to entry-level Amateur Radio licensees, including access to HF, even if the Commission doesn't want to create a new license class. Commenting in response to the FCC's July 9 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, the League also stood by its stance that the Commission retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra applicants, but do away with it for General applicants.

"Retaining Morse telegraphy as a requirement for only the Amateur Extra class license, in ARRL's view, places Morse telegraphy in a proper, balanced perspective," the League told the Commission October 31, the deadline to comment in the proceeding. Reply comments are due November 14.

The FCC's NPRM&O proposed elimi-

nating the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes but denied requests to create a new entry-level license class with limited HF privileges. The League said the FCC needs to finish the job of license restructuring it began in 1998 by reviewing operating privileges for all classes--especially at the first rung of the licensing ladder.

"The elimination of Morse telegraphy, absent a more thorough review of operating privileges in the Amateur Service, will not address the ascertained flaws in the only entry-level license class," the ARRL asserted, referring to the Technician license. "That license class is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration, and it needs fixing right now."

The ARRL argued that if the FCC will not create a new Novice class license as the

League had suggested in its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) in the proceeding, it should modify Technician operating privileges instead. The present licensing regime limits Technicians to VHF bands and above, "leaving newcomers to the Amateur Service isolated from their peers holding higher class licenses," the ARRL said. "The Technician class is, for too many, a 'dead end' to what might otherwise be an active, progressive interest in Amateur Radio, technical self-training and incentive-based educational progress in the many facets of the avocation."

The ARRL reminded the FCC that its restructuring plan enjoyed the support of the two Amateur Radio licensees in Congress--Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR) and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR).

Eliminating the Morse requirement for General class applicants "creates an anomaly with respect to the Technician class license," the ARRL noted. "If the telegraphy requirement for the General

class license is eliminated, the distinction between the Technician class licensee and the Technician Plus class licensee will have disappeared completely." Therefore, the League contends, there is a logical basis for affording Technician licensees entry-level HF privileges.

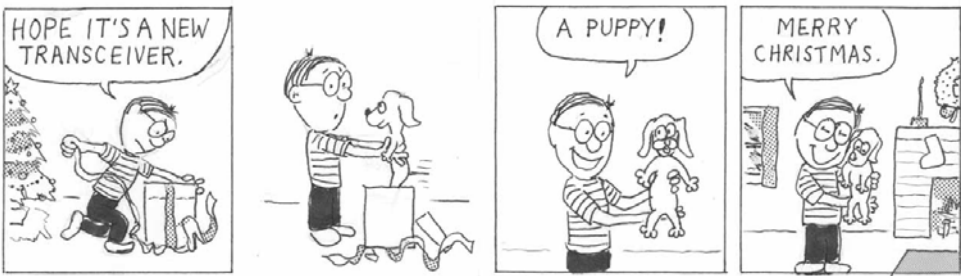
Under the ARRL plan, Technicians would have telegraphy and data privileges on 3.55-3.7 MHz, 7.05-7.125 MHz and 21.05-21.20 MHz at 100 W output and on 28.05-28.3 MHz at 50 W output. The League wants the FCC to provide HF phone and image privileges to Technicians on 3.9-4.0 MHz, 7.2-7.3 MHz and 21.35-21.45 MHz at 100 W output, and on 28.3-28.5 MHz at 50 W.

These recommended privileges take into account the FCC's proposal to adopt the ARRL's so-called "Novice refarming" plan in WT Docket 04-140. The ARRL had earlier proposed the same privileges for a reconstituted Novice license.

(Continued on page 11)

ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



Check us out on the web at  
<http://www.bsss.org>

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# WHAT’S HAPPENING

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Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901 — [kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net](mailto:kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net)

### Swapfests And Other Social Events

January 7, 2006, Waukesha, WI  
33rd Annual Midwinter Swapfest, sponsored by the West Allis RAC. Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. For information contact: [www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org), WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or Phil, W9NAW, (414) 425-3649 GPS co-ordinates: Latitude 43.03227, Longitude - 88.23948

March 19, 2006, Jefferson, WI  
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, Hwy 18 West, Jefferson, WI. For information contact: TCARC, 213 Frederick St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538, [www.cmdline.com/tcarc/](http://www.cmdline.com/tcarc/), [jsatt@ticon.net](mailto:jsatt@ticon.net) or (920) 563-6381 (evenings), (200 563-9551 (fax). <http://www.cmdline.com/tcarc>

April 22, 2006, Madison Area Repeater Association Swapfest, Stoughton, WI. [Mandt Community Center](http://www.mandtcommunitycenter.org)

400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, WI. Inquiries can be directed to: [w9hsy@execpc.com](mailto:w9hsy@execpc.com) or write to MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890, Tele:608.245.8890 For more information see the MARA website [www.qsl.net/mara](http://www.qsl.net/mara).

April 29, 2006, Medford, WI. Central Wisconsin Swapfest sponsored by the Black River ARA, Medford, WI. Unity Memorial Hall, 202 W Clark St. (County Hwy. K.) Unity, Wisconsin. For more information contact: Bob Braun, KB9BLV, PO Box 331, Dorchester, WI 54425 or e-mail to [hamfest@charter.net](mailto:hamfest@charter.net) <http://webpages.charter.net/centralwis/hamfest.html>

May 06, 2006, Cedarburg, WI. 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Amateur Radio and Computer Swapfest, Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC). Circle B Recreation Center, intersection of State Highway 60 and Ozaukee County Highway I. Info: Gene Szudrowitz, (262) 377-6792 between 6:00 and 8:00 pm or <http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>

July 8, 2006, South Milwaukee ARC Swapfest, American Legion Post 434, 9327 South Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. e-mail [ryatex@aol.com](mailto:ryatex@aol.com). Phone (414) 762-3235.

August 12, 2006 Circus City Swapfest, Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo, WI. Steve Schultze, W9UDO, (608) 356-2313 or Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, (608) 643-6908/643-6453 <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm>

September 10, 2006, Swapfest, sponsored by SEWFARS at Richfiled Chalet, 1271 Hwy 175, Hubertus, WI. e-mail to [sewfars@hotmail.com](mailto:sewfars@hotmail.com) or call: 1-866-837-0240 (toll free) or 262-628-7791. SEWFARS Swapfest, PO Box 105, Eagle, WI 53119.

September 16-17, 2006. Peoria Superfest, Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds, 1601 W Northmoor Rd, off N. University, Peoria, IL. Contact: Peoria Superfest, PO Box 3508 Peoria, IL 61612-3508. (309) 692-2378. e-mail: [w9uvi@arrl.net](mailto:w9uvi@arrl.net). <http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>.

Further information about hamfests in the area can be found at [bsss.org](http://bsss.org) or at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html> If your organization is sponsoring a Hamfest/ Swapfest and would like us to list your event, please send the information to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN at the address below or to [k9en@arrl.net](mailto:k9en@arrl.net)



Appleton  
FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond Street, Appleton, WI  
Information: Pat, K9IK, 920.725.1149. [PLatour428@aol.com](mailto:PLatour428@aol.com) Web: <http://www.w9zl.ampr.org/>

Baraboo  
BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS) Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/>

Baraboo  
YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: See the YTARC column elsewhere in this issue for meeting times and locations. For further information: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>.

Dubuque, IA  
GREAT RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Center, 2400 Asbury Road. The club serves the tri-state area. On the Web: <http://www.qsl.net/wb0lob/>. Information or questions to: [N0hdc@aol.com](mailto:N0hdc@aol.com).

Eau Claire  
EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, President, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Phone (715) 838-9108, Email [kg9ra@ecarc.org](mailto:kg9ra@ecarc.org). Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

Fond du Lac  
FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Sunday net: 7:30 p.m. CDT, K9IA repeater, 145.430 - PL 107.2 Information: Jack Heil, KG9IN, 920.922.1413. Email: [kg9in@fdlhams.org](mailto:kg9in@fdlhams.org) Web: <http://www.fdlhams.org>.

Fort Atkinson  
TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday

## Badger State Smoke Signals

### Amateur Radio Education and Information

**CHAIRMAN/PUBLISHER:** Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. e-mail to: [kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net](mailto:kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net)

#### EDITOR:

**TREASURER:** Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

### Subscription Rate

1 year (6 issues—bi-monthly)\$13.95

A subscription form is in this issue. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

### When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month before the issue date. For example, the closing date for the May issue is April 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

### Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

Web page material should be sent to [n9qa@arrl.net](mailto:n9qa@arrl.net) (Dave Knaus, N9QA).

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN no later than eight weeks before the

#### events date.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

#### Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

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### Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

(Continued from page 2)

evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920.563.6502, or John Satterlee, WA9SAB, 920.563.6381.

Grafton  
Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC) Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center, 1665 7th. Ave., Grafton, Wisconsin [www.qsl.net/orc/](http://www.qsl.net/orc/).

Green Bay  
GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere. Information: Kevin at [kb9sne@yahoo.com](mailto:kb9sne@yahoo.com).

Green Lake  
GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Greater Green Lake County area. Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

Houghton, MI area:  
The CCRAA is the "Copper Country Radio Amateur Association" and they hold meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall. Summer meetings (June, July, August, and September) are held at the CCRAA Clubhouse in Osceola (2 mi. S. of Calumet, MI)

Hudson  
St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

Juneau  
ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7278 KHZ, Alternate in 3.947 at 10:00 AM. & Wednesday, 1908 KHZ 8:00 PM, Wintertime.

Madison  
SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: [n9uw@sal.wisc.edu](mailto:n9uw@sal.wisc.edu).

Madison  
BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT Meetings: Third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in UW Union South. Room number posted on the Today in The Union board. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: [w9ixg@arrl.org](mailto:w9ixg@arrl.org). Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

Madison  
Madison DX Club, meetings are on every fourth Tuesday of each month; see <http://madisondxclub> for more details.

Madison  
FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

Manitowoc  
MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad) Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and Regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on northwest side of city.) For Additional information please see our club web-site [www.qsl.net/w9dlk](http://www.qsl.net/w9dlk) or contact Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: [w6bsf@arrl.net](mailto:w6bsf@arrl.net).

Marinette WI  
Menominee MI  
Amateur Radio Club Meetings held second Thursday 7:00PM each month BAMC Tenth Avenue Menominee Michigan in the basement. Guests welcome e-mail secretary [kg9ad@arrl.net](mailto:kg9ad@arrl.net)

Medford  
Black River Amateur Radio Association Meetings: Normally the first Thursday of each month. Usual meeting time is 7 PM. Most meetings are held at the Taylor County Courthouse. Directions: Those attending should park in the main courthouse parking lot on the east side of the building, and enter using the main courthouse entrance or the sheriff's dept. entrance. Proceed to the lower level of the courthouse using the stairs or elevator. We meet in the "break room" on the lower level, near the Emergency Government office. Talk-in on the 147.15 repeater (114.8 Hz PL, +600 kHz offset) and 146.52 MHz simplex. Contact: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

Menomonee Falls  
FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

Menomonie WI  
Saturday coffee at Burger King, 544 Main Street, at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot, 2616 Hills Court, north of Walmart on highway 25 North, in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Milwaukee  
GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (262) 363-4439. Email: [garyk9gs@arrl.net](mailto:garyk9gs@arrl.net).

Milwaukee  
MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Mailing address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> . Email: [w9rh@arrl.net](mailto:w9rh@arrl.net).

Monomonie  
RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC. Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomonie, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-

Mart Shopping Center in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Northeast Area  
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check <http://home.new.rr.com/newdxa/>. Contact us at [w9dxa@arrl.net](mailto:w9dxa@arrl.net).

Oak Creek  
SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post #434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. In March and October the meetings are turned into Auction Nights.. The club WEB site is [www.qsl.net/wa9txe](http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe)

Onalaska  
RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska Community Center. More information: <http://www.qsl.net/wr9arc/> . Email: [wr9arc@qsl.net](mailto:wr9arc@qsl.net).

QCWA Chapter 162  
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162. Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

QCWA Chapter 55  
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N. Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. <mailto:rryokes@execpc.com>.

Racine  
LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Racine  
RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Rhinelanders  
NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesday of Sept., Nov., Dec., Feb., and April for dinner business meetings at Ella's Restaurant, Jct. of Hwy. 51 and 70, north side of Woodruff, WI. Talkin on Sayner or Tomahawk repeaters. The Northwoods ARC News is on the club web site, <http://www.freeyellow.com/members7/nwarc>.

Sheboygan  
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Tuesdays. 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

Shell Lake  
Northland ARC meetings are held the first Saturday of each month after breakfast. Location: Schmitz's Economart Deli. Located on US

Hwy.63 on the south end of Spooner. The meeting will start at approx. 8:00 AM. Breakfast usually starts by 7:30 AM. Come and see what we're about. Anyone, even if you're licensed or not and has an interest in ham radio is welcome to attend! Next Meeting: Sept 4th, 2004 at 8:00 AM. So Please plan to attend!!!! <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>.

Stevens Point  
CWRA Ltd./UWSP ARC Meetings second Wednesday. of each month at 7:30 pm. Science Building on the UW-Stevens Point Campus, Room A107, Stevens Point, WI. Email: [jglas776@uwsp.edu](mailto:jglas776@uwsp.edu). Webpage: [www.qsl.net/wb9qfw](http://www.qsl.net/wb9qfw).

Superior  
ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

W.A.R. WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS  
Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State in March, July and November. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

Watertown  
WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

Waupaca  
WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CQ First Tue. Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. CQ Third Fri. Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

Wausau  
WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Location varies. Information: 146.64 (-600). <http://home.dwave.net/~wvra/>.

West Allis  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 80th and Lincoln Ave., West Allis. Meetings in basement. Entrance at rear, off alley. Handicapped accessible. [www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org).

West Bend  
WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-600).

Wisconsin Rapids  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry into the building.



# Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary  
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

## WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	LOCAL	Manager
BWN	YES	3985	1200	0600	W9IXG
BEN	YES	3985	1800	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	YES	3985	2315	1715	K9FHI
WNN	YES	3723	0000	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	YES	3645	0030	1830	N9JIY
WIN/E	YES	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	YES	3662	0400	2200	W9UW
RCRA	NO	01/61	0130	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CDT— Menomonie Area)					
Green Bay Area	NO	72/12	0345	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	NO	4.65/5.25	0300	2100	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					
ARES/RACES (WRACES)	NO	3996	0000	1800	KB9ENO

### STM REPORT WISCONSIN OCTOBER 2005

FAQ #49 - How does a good net control station keep track of who's checking in and make each check-in feel welcomed? Actually, that's two questions. A simple list of check-ins with notes about who has traffic, what the traffic is, who's on short time, who's coming from or going to other levels of the NTS, etc. will help. I like to use a lined, numbered form that tells me how many have checked in with space to note traffic, second-goes, etc.

The second question is just as important. And the answer is just as straightforward. A good NCS will

listen carefully and make every effort to get the call letters of the check-in right. That FCC-assigned call sign is precious to each Ham. Monitoring a net when one is not the NCS helps one get familiar with the calls -- and the names. Greeting an operator by name and knowing something about him or her demonstrates that the NCS thinks of the check-in as a friend. For larger nets, a spreadsheet with names, calls, and locations can be handy. Check out the QNI Index on the Wisconsin page of the ARRL website for help. Finally, a good NCS will focus on the check-ins, moderate the action, but not monopolize the net. When traffic has been passed and visiting is in order, a good NCS helps the other stations talk rather than offering his or her own observations. We have some great NCS examples on our section nets. Listen and learn. 73 - K9LGU/STM-WI

### WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY

October 2005

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1749	2259	4216	31	W9IXG
BEN	479	89	961	27	KE9VU
WSBN	801	55	1128	31	K9FHI
WNN	161	15	280	25	KB9ROB
WSSN	176	20	308	29	N9JIY
WIN/E	141	31	236	28	WB9ICH
WIN/L	148	4	305	31	W9UW
WRACES	106	8	219	5	N9VAO
Totals	3761	2481	7653	207	

### P S H R SUMMARY

October 2005

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
KB9KEG	40	40	20	240	5	10	355
K9LGU	40	40	30	100	0	0	210
AG9G	40	40	20	90	0	0	190
K9FHI	40	40	30	0	0	10	120
W9BHL	40	40	30	0	0	0	110
W9RSX	40	24	10	0	0	0	74
K9JPS	31	31	10	0	0	0	72

### WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY

October 2005

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
KB9KEG	31	367	49	367	814 -BPL
KA9EKG	18	241	230	17	504 - BPL
K9LGU	0	84	72	0	156
AG9G	0	11	61	0	72
W9UW	0	32	25	10	67
KB9ROB	0	34	8	10	67
W9BHL	0	18	48	0	66
K9FHI	0	20	33	0	53
K9JPS	0	8	32	8	48
W9KKM	0	2	37	2	41
W9IHW	0	0	31	0	31
KE9VU	0	22	9	0	31
KG9B	0	0	29	0	29
KN9P	5	9	14	0	28
K9GU	0	0	28	0	28
W9RSX	5	17	2	24	
AA9BB	0	0	22	0	22
WB9ICH	0	16	2	0	18
N9NNN	0	0	9	0	9
K9UTQ	0	0	5	0	5
W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1

Check us out on the web at  
<http://www.bsسسs.org>

# The Computer Corner

by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR  
715 N. Dries Street  
Saukville, WI 53080-1664  
(262) 268-1949  
skaplan@mcw.edu



## No. 126. Spyware

In case you had not noticed, I have moved from Port Washington to a newly purchased home in Saukville. My phone number is new, too, but my email address remains the same, as shown above.

Spyware is pervasive in this day and age, and it pays to “know your enemy” as well as taking steps necessary to prevent intrusion into your machine without your knowledge and consent. Most people don’t know much about spyware and could use a quick awareness-heightening view of the problem.

**Adware** is software that displays advertisements on your machine – pop-up, pop-under and banner ads. Besides slowing your browser’s performance, these programs may track your surfing habits, and may even download third party programs without your knowledge and consent.

A **Home Page Hijacker** or **Browser Hijacker** has the ability to change your Internet Explorer settings to redirect your Web searches through a different search engine, redirect the URLs you are trying to go to, and even to change your default home page. Once your IE settings are changed, you may not be able to reverse the process and change things back to the way they were! Insofar as I am aware, hijackers do not work with the new Firefox web browser, and Firefox is much better than IE anyway, so it pays to make the switch. Yep, once you install Firefox, you can import your IE bookmarks with ease.

**Cookies** were originally started for good reasons, but now a cookie downloaded to your machine can capture personal information such as surfing habits, passwords, user names or anything else and transfer this information to multiple web sites. Enough said? Cookies are to be

avoided! Are they enabled in your browser?

A **Dialer** has the ability to disconnect your machine from your usual Internet Service Provider (ISP) and to reconnect using a toll or even international phone number. While they may not spy on you, your phone bill will certainly reflect their presence and activity.

A **Keylogger** is a program that can be downloaded without your knowledge that will record every keystroke you make. That includes your typed email messages, passwords, financial information or anything else that you type with the keyboard. Of course, transferring such information to a third party can put you in jeopardy in many different ways.

**Spam** is, of course, unsolicited commercial email. You say your spam filter works well to keep it out of your mailbox? Right. Except that it still is transmitted on the web to your ISP and downloaded to your machine before your spam filter can delete it. All that takes time. Spam simply clogs up the web and slows down your personal machine. Also, be very careful to NOT use any “remove me from your mailing list” options when you receive spam. The Federal Trade Commission did a study a couple of years ago and found that 63% of the cases where spam offered a “remove me” option, responding either had no effect or caused an increase in spam sent to that address. By responding, the sender knows your email address is active, and they often sell such “guaranteed active” addresses to other spammers.

So then, **Spyware** is software that transmits information from your machine without your knowledge or consent. As mentioned in previous articles, there are free, shareware and commercial programs out there that will help to prevent spyware from doing its dirty work. Ad Aware and Spybot-Search and Destroy are two good

freeware programs. Microsoft also has an excellent antispyware program which is currently free, but they are simply testing it with the public prior to making it a commercial product in 2006. After that, you will need to pay a yearly fee to use it. Spy Sweeper by Webroot Software (www.webroot.com) is about the best paid-for program available at present. If you use the freebies Ad-Aware and Spybot, run both of them! I use these two, checking every few days to see if the definitions have been updated. If one or the other does have updated definitions, I download them and run a scan.

I leave you with a couple of thoughts for the safest computing.

1. At the very least, set your browser to reject third party cookies.
2. Use an anti-spyware program (or two) to keep your machine clean, and update its spyware definition data regularly.
3. Switch from IE to Firefox. Firefox is free, and it is a much faster, leaner and safer browser.
4. Use a firewall. Zone Alarm is still the best in the world, and it is free.
5. Of course, use antivirus software, and update its virus definitions regularly.

Happy Computing!

## WISCONSIN SECION MANAGER REPORT

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: KB9ENO, STM: K9LGU, SGL: AD9X, OOC: N9VE, PIC: KB9NUM. TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK ASM: K9UTQ, W9DGI, N9VE.

\*\* With deep regret, I am informing you of the passing of these Amateurs:  
-- Gary Kegley, W9RGC, age 69.  
-- John Roska, K9WEQ, age 84.  
-- Ray Palmer, K9DRB, age 61.  
-- Louis Parkansky, AA9JH, age 80. Louis was a member of M&M ARC.  
-- Carroll Norgaard, W9IPL, 89. Carroll was a member of Eau Claire ARC.

\*\* The M&M ARC are holding a VE testing session on Thursday, October 20, in Marinette, WI. Contact Ed, KG8CX, for details. kg8cx@new.rr.com

\*\* Congratulations to Travis Waack, KB9YRC, for receiving the 2005 ORC scholarship. Travis is active in MANCORAD Club and is an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for ARES and Assistant Radio Officer for RACES. He, also, became a member of the local Red Cross Disaster Action team and Coordinator of the county SKYWARN unit. His activity with the SKYWARN unit spurred his interest in meteorology and he plans to major in Atmospheric Science at Northland College in Ashland this fall. Having worked with Travis on several public service events, I can personally attest to Travis' positive can-do attitude. This award is well deserved!!

\*\* This weekend is JOTA. I hope that you will participate and make contacts with the stations that will be set up for this yearly event. Many Wisconsin clubs have worked hard to make this a fun event for their local scouting troops so please lend your support. More details can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/27/5/?nc=1>

\*\* FAQ #48 - How do I know who checks the nets and how I might route my traffic? You might check the Wisconsin page of the ARRL web site. Just scroll down to the Traffic Handling section and click on Traffic Handlers Calls List for an alphabetical list of those who frequent the Wisconsin Section nets. If you're looking for an outlet for your traffic, click on the Wisconsin Cities Routing Guide. If you don't have Internet access, send me a radiogram and I'll post one to you. On the same web page, you'll see a list of the current net managers and net control stations for the section nets. Notice the open NCS slots? Those spaces are just for you! Don't hesitate to volunteer.

73 -- K9LGU/STM

\*\* Nominations close December 31 for the 2005 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The award is dedicated to an amateur or amateur group devoted to promoting human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster.

All nominations and supporting materials for the 2005 ARRL International Humanitarian Award must be submitted in writing in English to: ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

More details can be found at this site: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>

\*\* The 2005 season for support of public service events is almost over. I'd like to thank everyone who helped support these events. I'm sure you have many fond

(Continued on page 6)

Check us out on the web at  
[Http://www.bsas.org](http://www.bsas.org)

## WISCONSIN SECION MANAGER REPORT

*(Continued from page 5)*

memories that came from helping the public enjoy their event and for providing their saftey net through communications. We look forward to having you participate in 2006!

73, Don W9IXG  
ARRL Wisconsin Section  
Section Manager: Donald E. Michalski, W9IXG  
[w9ixg@arrl.org](mailto:w9ixg@arrl.org)

### ARES Leadership Changes

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

**John Everman, N9MDH**, has been appointed Portage County EC replacing **Rick Abbott, WX9M**, who has stepped down to concentrate on his DEC duties. John has been involved in Skywarn for many years and has assisted Rick. Please join me in welcoming John and thanking Rick!

I am pleased to report after several years, we have a new EC in Monroe County. **Jim Richardson, KC9IHI**, joins the WI ARES/RACES Leadership team. Jim has many years experience with the U.S. Army communications. Welcome, Jim!

**John Stein, N5SHF**, has decided to enjoy the good life and retire. As a result, he is traveling around the country in his motor home! As a result, John is retiring as Sauk County EC. We wish John well in his travels and thank him for stepping in for Southwest District Emergency Coordinator **Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB**, when Pete needed to hand the Sauk County reins over to someone else.

Replacing John is **Richard Plouffe, N9ROY**. Richard has been extremely active in Sauk County ARES and now steps up to assume the county’s top ARES spot. Welcome Richard! Significant changes continue in the Southwest District with the appointment of **Scott Feldt, KC9YI**, who steps in as Green County EC for **Dave Deiler, KB9JQV**. Scott has already begun a recruiting drive and appears to be on his way to increasing the activity in Green County. Welcome aboard, Scott!

Thanks also to Dave for pulling double duty for a few years. He will now be able to concentrate his efforts on Rock County, where he is EC.

"Reprinted from the Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator Newsletter, Bill Niemuth, Edi or".

Volume 07 Number 12  
December 2005

Wisconsin ARRL/ARES  
Section Emergency Coordinator  
EC Newsletter Editor  
RACES Chief Radio Officer  
Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO  
W8088 Hillcrest Court  
Hortonville, WI 54944  
920-779-0611  
920-475-4819 (Mobile)

## Check us out on the web at

## <http://www.bsss.org>

### W1AW 2005/2006 Winter Operating Schedule

ARRL Bulletin 25 ARLB025  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT October 31, 2005  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB025  
ARRL025 W1AW 2005/2006 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
-----	----	-----
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)  
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri	
2100 "	"	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 "	(5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 "	(6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 "	(7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 "	"	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 "	(8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 "	(9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 "	(9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 "	(10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 "	"	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 "	(11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

-----

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555  
RTTY: - 3.625 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555  
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:  
CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM  
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM  
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the November 2005 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> .  
NNNN



# The Test Point



## Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

December 03, 2005	St. Paul, MN
December 03, 2005	Racine, WI
December 08, 2005	Apple Valley, MN
December 10, 2005	Blaine, MN
December 10, 2005	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
December 10, 2005	Negaunee, MI
December 15, 2005	Iron River, MI
December 17, 2005	Cottage Grove, MN
December 17, 2005	Loves Park, IL
December 17, 2005	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
December 20, 2005	Eden Prairie, MN
January 07, 2006	St. Paul, MN
January 12, 2006	Apple Valley, MN
January 14, 2006	Blaine, MN
January 14, 2006	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
January 17, 2006	Eden Prairie, MN
January 19, 2006	Iron River, MI
January 21, 2006	Cottage Grove, MN
January 21, 2006	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
January 21, 2006	Loves Park, IL
January 28, 2006	Bloomington, MN
January 28, 2006	Tomahawk, WI
January 28, 2006 .	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 04, 2006	Racine, WI
February 04, 2006	St. Paul, MN
February 09, 2006	Apple Valley, MN
February 11, 2006	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 11, 2006	Blaine, MN
February 17, 2006	Iron River, MI
February 18, 2006	Cottage Grove, MN
February 18, 2006	Loves Park, IL
February 18, 2006	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
February 21, 2006	Eden Prairie, MN
February 25, 2006	Bloomington, MN
February 25, 2006.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 25, 2006.	Tomahawk, WI
March 04, 2006	Racine, WI
March 04, 2006	St. Paul, MN
March 09, 2006	Apple Valley, MN
March 11, 2006	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 11, 2006	Blaine, MN
March 17, 2006	Iron River, MI
March 18, 2006	Cottage Grove, MN
March 18, 2006	Loves Park, IL
March 18, 2006	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
March 21, 2006	Eden Prairie, MN
March 25, 2006	Bloomington, MN
March 25, 2006.	Tomahawk, WI
April 01, 2006	Racine, WI
April 01, 2006	St. Paul, MN
April 08, 2006	Blaine, MN
April 08, 2006†	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
April 13, 2006	Apple Valley, MN
April 15, 2006	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
April 15, 2006	Loves Park, IL
April 15, 2006	Cottage Grove, MN
April 18, 2006	Eden Prairie, MN
April 20, 2006	ron River, MI
April 22, 2006	Bloomington, MN
April 29, 2006	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
April 29, 2006	Tomahawk, WI
May 06, 2006	Racine, WI
May 06, 2006	St. Paul, MN
May 11, 2006	Apple Valley, MN
May 13, 2006	Blaine, MN
May 13, 2006	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
May 16, 2006	Eden Prairie, MN
May 18, 2006	ron River, MI

May 20, 2006	Loves Park, IL
May 20, 2006	Cottage Grove, MN
May 27, 2006	Bloomington, MN
May 27, 2006	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 27, 2006	Tomahawk, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat. (except Jan., Jul., & Aug.)	Racine, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Thu.	Iron River, MI
Monthly, 3rd Sat. (September through April)	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat. (Except Mar., Jun., Aug., & Dec.)	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
Monthly, Last Sat. (January thru October only)	Tomahawk, WI

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS: Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A Hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Get your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, W1AW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2005 test fee at \$14.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior

to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC.

Adams, WI  
Adams City Fire Dept., 101 N. Main St., Highway 13, Adams, WI. Contact Edward J. Wagner (608) 584-4858. [ab9fn@arrl.net](mailto:ab9fn@arrl.net)

Appleton, WI  
Fox Cities ARC (ARRL/VEC) All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building, 1302 East Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. No walk-ins after 9 a.m. For information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. Email: [w9mdp@arrl.net](mailto:w9mdp@arrl.net).

Eau Claire, WI  
Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. Grace Lutheran Church, 202 W., Grand Ave. Enter off 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue entrance, Eau Claire, WI  
Technician, General and Extra Class exams. Walkins welcome. Examination session coordinator: Jonathan E., Case, (715) 834-1540. [www.ecarc.org](http://www.ecarc.org). [w9eau@ecarc.org](mailto:w9eau@ecarc.org).

Fond du Lac, WI  
Fond du Lac ARC (ARRL/VEC). Community United Methodist Church, 701 Minnesota Ave., North Fond du Lac. 9:00 a.m. Walk-ins allowed. Contact: Douglas J. Schultz, 920 - 922 - 3088, [schultz74@charter.net](mailto:schultz74@charter.net).

Houghton MI: Sponsor: HARC/CCRAA. Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: George R Thurner (906)337-2542. Email: [W8FWG@ARRL.NET](mailto:W8FWG@ARRL.NET) VEC: [ARRL/VEC](http://ARRL/VEC) Location: Michigan Tech University-US Hwy 41. Wadsworth Residence Hall, East End of Campus, G11w (Downstairs/Turn Left), Houghton, MI 49931

Iron Mountain, MI 49801: Sponsor: W5YI VEC. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-Ins Allowed). Contact: Mark J Lewis, (906)337-2542 . VEC: [W5YI.VEC](http://W5YI.VEC). Location: Dickinson County Library, 401 South Iron Mountain St., Arrival Time: 9:00 AM. Conference Room, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Iron River, MI. Sponsor: Iron Range ARA (IRARC). Time: 6:30 PM (No walk-ins). Contact: Dan R Waters, (906)265-4240. Email: [dmwaters@ironriver.tv](mailto:dmwaters@ironriver.tv) VEC: [W5YI.VEC](http://W5YI.VEC). Location: Iron River Lutheran Church, Across From Mcdonald's. Pre-Registration Required. If no applicants - No testing. Iron River, MI 49935

Madison, WI  
The Madison Wisconsin, Four Lakes

Amateur Radio Club sponsored VE testing has moved to the new University of Wisconsin Space Place, 2300 South Park Street, lower level, Madison, WI in the Villager shopping center complex. Exams are given the first Saturday of the month. Holidays included. Doors open at 8:00 AM, and we hope to have all exams completed and graded by 10:00 AM.

Please bring a picture ID, your original license, a copy of your license, and the original and a copy of any relevant CSCEs, and a check for \$12.00 made out to the ARRL/VEC. No appointments are necessary to take exams. Exams start promptly at 8 a.m. Questions may be directed to Tim Czerwonka, WO9U, at 608-239-3696 (home phone) or sent to [wo9u@arrl.net](mailto:wo9u@arrl.net).

Marshfield, WI  
Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. Saint Joseph's Hospital, 611 Saint Joseph Ave., Room 124, Hospice South Bldg., Marshfield, WI 54449. Contact Lee A. Olson, (715) 389-8888.

Mauston, WI (ARRL/VEC)  
Sponsored by the Juneau County ARC. 9:30 a.m. (Walk-ins allowed). Mauston City Hall, 303 Mansion St., Community Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mauston, WI. Contact Edward J. Wagner, (608) 584-4858. [ab9fn@arrl.net](mailto:ab9fn@arrl.net)

Menominee, MI  
Marinette-Menominee Amateur Radio Club. Location: The cafeteria of Bay Area Med Center, US-41 in Menominee. Building located next to KFC just off the Interstate Bridge. All classes given. Advance notice preferred, but not required. Test fee is \$10 with two pieces of identification required. Contact Jeff Rymer, N9PQU at [jrymer@ez-net.com](mailto:jrymer@ez-net.com) or Ed Engleman, KG8CX, at [dxer@cybrzn.com](mailto:dxer@cybrzn.com). We will monitor the 147.000 (107.2 pl) repeater in event further directions or info is needed.

Milwaukee, WI  
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC VEC) Last Saturday, except in March, June, August, and December. In addition, we test at the West Allis RAC Swapfest in January and at Superfest in April. 9:30 a.m. to noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Road (the door you enter is actually numbered 5730), Milwaukee. For additional information, call (262) 797-MRAC. Bring along your original license, CSCE (if any), and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$8.00 for the exam fee. Walkins are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card. Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number, and send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Contact: John G. Kraak, 262-797-6722.

Negaunee, MI. Sponsor: HIAWATHA ARC. Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Richard E Schwenke, (906)249-

(Continued on page 8)

THE TEST POINT

(Continued from page 7)

3837, Email: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net) VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#). Location: Health Dept Bldg (Downstairs), 184 US 41 E, Entrance @ Back of building. Negaunee, MI 49866

Onalaska, WI  
Sponsor: Riverland ARC, Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed), Contact: Roger C. Reader, (608)783-0723. Email: [readers@centurytel.net](mailto:readers@centurytel.net). VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#). Location: Onalaska Public Library. 741 Oak Ave S. Onalaska, WI 54650

Oshkosh, WI (Omro)  
Oshkosh VE Team Amateur Radio exams monthly on the second Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon. Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail: [lemme@vbe.com](mailto:lemme@vbe.com), or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Ozaukee, WI  
Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed), Contact: John G. Kraak. (414)332-6722. Email: [jkraak@wi.rr.com](mailto:jkraak@wi.rr.com). VEC: [Milwaukee VEC](#). Location: Circle B Recreation Center, 6261 State Road 60, Cedarburg, WI 53012

Portage, WI  
Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook St., Highway 33, Portage, WI. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed), Contact: Edward J. Wagner, (608)584-4858 Talk in on 146.52.

Email: [ab9fn@arrl.net](mailto:ab9fn@arrl.net). VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#). Location: Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E Cook St, Highway 33, Portage, WI 53901 Talk-in Frequency 146.520 MHz.

Racine, WI  
ARRL VEC Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Paul B. Smedegaard, N9RGW, 929 Lathrop Ave., Racine, WI 53405-2339. Telephone: (262) 637 4750. or e-mail to [smedegaa@wi.net](mailto:smedegaa@wi.net)

Rockford, IL  
Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC) Third Saturday of every month. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Held at St. Anthony Hospital, 5660 E State St., Rockford, IL.

Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail: [WB9QYV@aol.com](mailto:WB9QYV@aol.com).

Sheboygan, WI  
Sheboygan County ARC (ARRL/VEC). Exams are held in the Red Cross Building, 2032 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The test areas are handicap accessible with signage posted to direct candidates to the proper area of the building. Walk-ins are accepted, however notification ahead of time of your intention to appear would be appreciated. Contact: Art Pahr K9XJ, 920-876-2370. N8029 Willow Road [k9xj@arrl.net](mailto:k9xj@arrl.net) Plymouth, WI 53073-2929

Tomahawk, WI  
Tomahawk ARRL VE Team (ARRL/VEC). Last Saturday of every month, January thru October. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633, [dcollins@newnorth.net](mailto:dcollins@newnorth.net).

St. Paul, MN  
Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC) First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. Test Site: St. Paul Technical College, 235 Marshall Ave., St Paul, MN. Ed Van Cleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108. [www.qsl.net/sprc/index.html](http://www.qsl.net/sprc/index.html).

Upper Michigan sites::

Washington Island, WI  
Contact: John W. Van Sandt, (217) 826-8821. [n9yrx@hotmail.com](mailto:n9yrx@hotmail.com)

Wausau, WI.  
Sponsor: WVRA. Time: 2:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Gerald L. Graebel, (715) 842-9542 Email: [w9glg@arrl.net](mailto:w9glg@arrl.net). VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#). Location: American Legion Golf Course, 1001 Golf Club Rd, Wausau, WI 54403

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34th ANNUAL MIDWINTER  
**SWAPFEST**



Ham Radio, Computer, Electronics  
**SATURDAY - JANUARY 7, 2006**  
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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**Future Date: January 6, 2007**

**ELMER**

by Rich Regent, K9GDF





# THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

**Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association**  
**Joel Papke, N9BQM, Treasurer**  
**7968 Ubinger Road, Pittsville, WI 54466-9214**

**Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor—453 Cottage Grove Avenue—Green Bay, WI 54304—e-mail: kb9aln@tds.net**

**WAPR News**  
**December, 2005**  
by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

On behalf of all of the people who are associated with WAPR, Happy Holidays! I do hope your Christmas or other Holiday celebration is a merry one, and that the New Year finds you happy and healthy. Thanks to everyone who has been kind enough to support WAPR and the Wisconsin Packet Radio Network.

It's been quite a while since I've been able to put anything in this space. There's been precious little in the way of news, but I will pass along what little I have.

First, news regarding WAPR. Walt, AA9AW has resigned from the position of WAPR Packet Radio Frequency Coordinator. Joel, N9BQM has assumed this position until some other arrangement can be made. So far, this position has seen little packet activity as all frequency coordination seems to be mostly complete and stable. No newer packet frequencies have been requested for a while. However, it is important to have a point-of-contact person in case we need to clarify frequency designation.

Joel also is resurrecting the Tomah node. He has bought radios from Walt and plans to link them into the western end of the state's packet network. The plan is to allow network access at 1200 bps first, then move up in speed later.

In other packet radio news, Jim

KB9MMA from Racine recently contacted me with an IP address question that he had. He let me know that in addition to his BBS, he plans to be an amprnet gateway and also operates a WinLink station. He also has a web presence, you can find him at:

<http://www.kb9mma.com>

Steve, N8MLI of Negaunee (in Michigan's Upper Peninsula) is putting a 3-frequency node together. Negaunee is near Marquette, which has had sporadic and unreliable packet connectivity since an airplane hit the tower that hosted the node's antenna quite some time ago. While you still can get to some stations near Marquette, they need to have a very capable station to get back to the Iron Mountain node. This may fix that problem, if indeed it goes up in that area.

Steve contacted me regarding frequencies used to link the UP with Wisconsin. Although I sent him the information, the message was bounced, and could not confirm his plans.

**Network Status**

As of this writing, we seem to be taking one step forward and occasionally falling one step back. While I am heartened to hear of the resurrection of the Tomah node, there are still large gaps in our network.

The Northeastern part of the network (that serves me here in Green Bay) is still present, operating and can transport one to the UP of

Michigan. Unfortunately, we lost our southern link that allows us to go west.

Al K9ALS (formerly KB9BYQ) has taken his system down for the time being. His station in Appleton allowed us to link to the west. The Western backbone in the Wisconsin network operates on a different frequency that the Northeastern part of the network, and Al's node stack in Appleton was a transfer point. It allowed the two parts of the network to connect. Al tells me that he does plan to reopen the node stack and BBS when he relocates. He has no firm timetable, but is hoping for spring.

There is not a great deal left to the Southern parts of the network. At one time, Len N9QIP and his Wisconsin Interstate Network operated a large number of nodes in the south-central part of the state. Those nodes have been taken out of service, leaving no real path between Milwaukee, Racine and Port Washington.

In addition, I am told that the Port Washington BBS and node is no longer operating.

There are a few bright spots, however. Josh AB9FT in Sheboygan is still out there and operating. The central part of the state perhaps has the highest level of activity and network connectivity. There are also a number of nodes devoted to ARES communications on 145.61 MHz.

In short, the Wisconsin network is heavily segmented. While it is possible to link a lot of it together

through the internet, we'd rather only do that on an emergency basis only (for disaster response purposes). We'd really not rather be in a position of having to rely on something that is subject to failure, and may not even be available when needed.

While all of this sounds a bit discouraging, it's not as bad as you'd think. We do have quite a bit of network we can still use, and it would not take a huge effort to get a lot of it tied back together. While some people have forgotten that a good digital network is very helpful in Emergency and disaster communications, recently, there has been an awakening of sorts in the Emergency communications community and we may see some of those gaps filled in the coming months.

One nice side-effect of this is that there is virtually no network congestion. As a veteran of the packet radio boom, I can tell you that packet radio is now faster than it has ever been. It really is very inexpensive to try out packet radio these days, with used TNCs and radios very cheap. If you've never tried packet and wonder what it's all about, you could find out very cheaply. And have some fun with it.

You can find out a lot about packet radio at this site:

<http://www.tapr.org>

That's all for this time out.  
Until next time, 73 from Andy.



## Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

**WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)**  
**K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)**  
**Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315**  
**Robert Loomis, KB9VSQ, Secretary**  
**108 Scarlet Ct., Reedsburg, WI 53959**  
**YTARC Home Page: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/>**



### Meeting Dates & Times

The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm sharp. We meet in room C128 (EMBS Meeting Room) in the Sauk County Courthouse located at 510 Broadway in Baraboo. Use the 3rd Avenue entrance across the street from the Shoe Box Outlet Store.

The following is a listing of the meeting dates for 2006.

MONTH	DAY	DATE	TIME
January	Tuesday	3	7:30pm
February	Tuesday	7	7:30pm
March	Tuesday	7	7:30pm
April	Tuesday	4	7:30pm
May	Tuesday	2	7:30pm
June	Tuesday	6	7:30pm
July	Tuesday	4	7:30pm
August	Tuesday	1	7:30pm
September	Tuesday	5	7:30pm
October	Tuesday	3	7:30pm
November	Tuesday	7	7:30pm
December	Tuesday	5	7:30pm

### Local Nets

Sundays

7:00PM - Sauk County ARES/RACES Weekly Net

8:00PM - Yellow Thunder ARC Sunday Night Net - Featuring ARRL Audio News

**Anytime**

Skywarn Net - We are the official Skywarn repeater for the area/region when weather conditions warrant.

## MEANINGFUL ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE PRIVILEGES ARE TOP PRIORITY, ARRL SAYS

*(Continued from page 1)*

The time is right to take a look at the operating privileges of Amateur Radio license classes, the ARRL said in its filing, "because the entry-level license class is demonstrably neither attractive to newcomers nor encouraging in terms of retaining the interest of license holders."

To back up its assertions, the League pointed to surveys it conducted in 1992 and 2003. Nearly half of the licensees responding in the latter poll indicated that they were not currently active in Amateur Radio--up 30 percent from the earlier survey. "The number of inactive Technician class licensees is 46 percent," the ARRL noted, adding that more than a quarter of Technicians responding in 2003 said they'd never even been on the air.

The League pointed out that the FCC's proposed across-the-board elimination of the Morse requirement eliminates a simple mechanism for current Technician licensees to obtain HF operating privileges--passing the 5 WPM code exam.

If the FCC does nothing other than eliminate the Morse requirement for the General license, the ARRL commented, it would make no sense to continue to deprive Technician licensees the HF operating privileges that Tech Plus licensees now enjoy.

"To do otherwise is to draw a distinction that is entirely arbitrary," the League concluded.



From *THE ARRL LETTER*  
Vol 24, No 43, 11/4/2005

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	<p>The Chicago FM Club presents <b>RADIO EXPO 2005</b> September , 2005 Lake County Fairgrounds, Rts. 45 and 120 Grayslake, Illinois Free parking • Amateur Exams • Talkin 146.16/76 Info Voice mail and FAX: (708) 457-0966 <a href="http://www.chicagofmclub.org">http://www.chicagofmclub.org</a> P.O. Box 56784, Harwood Heights, IL 60656-0724</p>	<p><b>TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS</b> <b>HAMFEST 2006</b> <b>March , 19 2006</b> <b>YOUR SPRING FAVORITE !</b> <a href="http://www.cmdline.com/tcarc/">www.cmdline.com/tcarc/</a> TCARC 213 Frederick St (920) 563-6381 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Evenings</p>
<div><p>www.ns9rc.org see the website!</p></div> <div><p><b>NS9RC</b> <i>Fest</i> <i>formerly known as LAMARFest</i> Lake County Fairgrounds Grayslake, Illinois <b>04/XX/05</b></p></div>		<p>The Milwaukee Repeater Club presents <b>AMATEUR RADIO FEST 2005</b> <b>October , 2005</b>  Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Buildings For more information, see: <a href="http://www.mrc91.org">http://www.mrc91.org</a> e-mail <a href="mailto:mrc@mrc91.org">mrc@mrc91.org</a> or call (414) 526-7011</p>
<p><b>Ozaukee Radio Club</b> <b>27th ANNUAL RADIO AND</b> <b>COMPUTER SWAPFEST</b> <b>MAY 06, 2006</b> 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center Intersection of Highway 60 and County I Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno, 5119 W, Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222 Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive • Cedarburg WI 53012</p>	<p><b>Circus City Swapfest</b> Sponsored by the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club <b>Saturday, August 12, 2006 • 7 am—Noon</b> <b>Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI</b></p> <div><p>Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area</p><p>\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables</p></div> <p>Steve Schulze, N9UDO • Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (606) 356-2313 • (608) 643-6908/643-6453 <a href="http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm">http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm</a>,</p>	<p><b>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB</b> <b>AUCTION</b> <b>Amateur Radio, Computers &amp; Electronics</b> <b>Wed. MAR. 01, 2005, 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>American Legion Post 434</b> <b>Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI</b> (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail: ryatex@aol.com</p>

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